

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF HABITAT

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 6  
Palmer, AK 99645-6736  
PHONE: (907) 861-3200  
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### SPECIAL AREA PERMIT FH-11-IV-GP12-SA

**ISSUED:** January 1, 2011  
**EXPIRES:** December 31, 2011

#### General Public:

Re: Susitna Flats State Game Refuge - Camping

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat has determined that both the public interest and the proper protection of fish and wildlife and their habitat would be served by the authorization of limited camping activities within the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge (SFSGR). Pursuant to 5 AAC 95.770, the Division of Habitat hereby authorizes camping on state lands in the SFSGR for a period of up to 14 consecutive days as established herein.

This permit authorizes camping activities within the SFSGR outside the Little Susitna Public Use Facility (LSPUF). Camping activities within the LSPUF must be conducted in accordance with 5 AAC 95 515(4) and all posted campground rules.

The Susitna Flats State Game Refuge was created in 1976 pursuant to AS 16.20.036 to protect:

1. Fish and wildlife habitat and populations, particularly waterfowl nesting, feeding, and migration areas; moose calving areas; spring and fall bear feeding areas; salmon spawning and rearing habitats; and
2. Public uses of fish and wildlife and their habitat, particularly waterfowl, moose, and bear hunting; viewing; photography; and general recreation in a high quality environment.

The SFSGR is located within the Alaska Coastal Zone. Activities within the Alaska Coastal Zone are subject to a consistency review with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Coastal District Management Plan. Camping in Legislatively Designated Special Areas has been found generally consistent with these plans provided all activities are conducted in strict accordance with the terms and conditions associated with Generally Consistent Determination 23B (GCD-23B: Camping in Legislatively Designated Special Areas; attached).

The following conditions apply to all camping activities on the SFSGR:

1. Prior to the end of the 14th day after arriving at a camp site, all persons shall exit and all personal property shall be removed from the refuge for at least three days (72 hours) or the camp must be moved a minimum of two (2) miles from the previous camp site.
2. Campsites may not be left unattended for longer than 72 hours.
3. Camping on the Little Susitna River (within 100-feet of the river) is limited to marked established campsites (See attached map) or may take place on exposed unvegetated sand or gravel bars. Use of developed campsites along the Little Susitna River is on a first-come

first-serve basis. If tent platforms are available, all tents or other shelters are allowed only on existing tent platforms at these campsites.

4. Damage to streambank vegetation is prohibited. Walking on, standing on, tying boats to, or other disturbance of marked riverbank restoration sites is not allowed.
5. Human and domestic animal excrement shall either be contained in provided outhouse facilities, buried at least 6 inches in the ground at least 100 feet from any surface water or wetland, or removed from the SFSGR for disposal.
6. Camps shall be maintained in a manner that avoids attracting bears and other wildlife. All garbage and litter shall be burned to ash on a daily basis or removed to an approved disposal site as soon as practical. All litter must be removed at the completion of camping activities.
7. Campfires shall not be left unattended.
8. There shall be no cutting of any standing woody vegetation. Dead and down trees may be used for firewood.
9. There shall be no interference with public use of state lands and waters in the SFSGR.

Be reminded that, pursuant to 5 AAC 95.420, any activity within the SFSGR that is likely to have a significant effect on vegetation, drainage, water quality, soil stability, fish, wildlife, or their habitats, including the construction of structures or the clearing of vegetation, is specifically not allowed without individual authorization from the Division of Habitat.

The permittee, or the legal guardian of minor dependants, are responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who participate in the approved activity. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved activity, the permittee shall notify the Division of Habitat at the above letterhead address and obtain written approval in the form of an individual Special Area Permit before beginning the activity. Any action taken by the permittee or an agent of the permittee that increases the overall scope of the permitted activity or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any stipulation contained in this permit will be deemed a significant deviation from the approved plan. The final determination as to the significance of any deviation and the need for a permit amendment is the responsibility of the Division of Habitat. Therefore, it is recommended that the Division of Habitat be consulted immediately when a deviation from the approved plan is being considered.

This letter constitutes a General Permit issued under the authority of 5 AAC 95. Please be advised that this approval does not relieve the permittee of the responsibility for securing other all other applicable state, federal, or local permits.

Pursuant to 11 AAC 110 the conditions of this General Permit are consistent with the enforceable standards of the Alaska and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Coastal Management programs.

The permittee shall mitigate any adverse effect upon fish or wildlife, their habitat, or any restriction or interference with public use, which the commissioner determines may be expected to result from, or which actually results from, the permittee's activity, or which was a direct result of the permittee's failure to: 1) comply with a permit condition or a provision of 5 AAC 95; or 2) correct a condition or change a method foreseeably detrimental to fish and wildlife, or their habitat.

The recipient of this permit (the permittee) shall indemnify, save harmless, and defend the Division of Habitat, its agents, and its employees from any and all claims, actions, or liabilities for injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from permitted activities or

the permittee's performance under this permit amendment. However, this provision has no effect if, and only if, the sole proximate cause of the injury is the Division of Habitat's negligence.

An interested person may initiate an appeal of a decision made under this chapter in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330 - 44.62.630 by requesting a hearing under AS 44.62.370.

Sincerely,

Cora Campbell, Commissioner



By: Michael L. Bethe, Area Manager  
Division of Habitat  
(907) 861-3200

-kab

2 Attachments:

1. GCD-23B; Camping in Legislatively Designated Special Areas
2. Campsite Map

cc: C. Cox, DMLW	S. Ivey, SF	W. Biessel, DPOR	T. Kavalok, WC
J. Meehan, WC	E. Weiss, WC	S. Lee, MSB	T. Oleck, AWT
A. Oels, WC	M. Fink, Habitat	D. Massie, AWT	M. Agnew, AWT
A. Ott, Habitat	R. Price, SF	M. Daigneault, Habitat	K. Hensel, DPOR
D. Hill, WC	R. Piorkowski, SF	G. O'Doherty, SF	

## **GENERALLY CONSISTENT DETERMINATION GCD-23B**

### **CAMPING IN LEGISLATIVELY DESIGNATED SPECIAL AREAS**

The following activity is consistent with the Alaska Coastal Management Program per 11 AAC 110.730 when conducted according to the standard alternative measures listed below. This approval does not relieve the applicant from obtaining required permits and approvals from local, State, and federal individual agencies.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY**

This generally consistent determination applies to non-commercial recreational camping on state lands in legislatively designated special areas (refuges, sanctuaries, and critical habitat areas) for a period of up to 14 consecutive days. The maximum authorized stay of 14 days under this generally consistent determination is intended to provide for the greatest opportunity for use by the general public, and to be consistent with camping requirements on other state lands. The maximum length of stay may be reduced, but not extended, under this generally consistent determination.

*Authority:* AS 16.20  
5 AAC 95

*Permits:* General or Individual Special Area Permit (DFG)

*Region:* Statewide in Legislatively Designated Special Areas

### **PROCEDURE**

Permittee shall consult the Office of History and Archaeology ((907) 269-8721) so that known historic, prehistoric, or archeological sites may be avoided.

### **STANDARD ALTERNATIVE MEASURES**

1. All camps shall be sited to avoid loss or adverse impact to riparian vegetation. Depending on site-specific conditions, setbacks for camps may be required to avoid loss of important upland and aquatic habitats including riparian vegetation, and to prevent bank erosion and sedimentation of salmon spawning and rearing habitat. Setbacks up to 100 feet from ordinary high water may be required.
2. No temporary or permanent structures, including tent platforms are allowed. Pole tents, or other portable shelters are allowed provided they do not include platforms or other amenities that require construction techniques beyond simple assembly.

3. All persons shall exit and all personal property shall be removed from the Special Area no later than the end of the 14th day after arrival, unless a shorter period is mandated by DFG.
4. All garbage and litter generated by those persons using the Special Area or in the vicinity of camps shall be collected and burned to ash onsite on a daily basis, or temporarily stored in air tight predator-proof containers and physically removed to an approved disposal site as soon as practical and no later than upon completion of the allowed stay. All food shall be similarly stored and handled.
5. All campers shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress, and promptly report all fires on or endangering state lands ((907) 761-6311 and 761-6300). No tree cutting is authorized and only down and dead trees may be used for firewood. No cutting of down and dead trees is allowed within 100 feet of any river, lake, stream, or wetland.
6. There shall be no interference with free public use of state lands and waters in Special Areas.
7. The Alaska Historic Preservation Act (AS 41.35.200) prohibits the appropriation, excavation, removal, injury, or destruction of any state-owned historic, prehistoric, or archeological site without a permit from the commissioner. Should any sites be discovered during the course of field operations, activities that may damage the site will cease and the Office of History and Archaeology in the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation ((907) 269-8721) and the appropriate coastal district shall be notified immediately.

IDENT	LAT	LONG
1 D	61.451853	-150.167083
2 D	61.455969	-150.149549
3 D	61.459834	-150.144834
4 D	61.457017	-150.1525
5 D	61.46035	-150.157
6 D	61.461	-150.1531
7 D	61.4629	-150.153217
09 U	61.363378	-150.269546
10 U	61.384723	-150.240107
11 U	61.409679	-150.209578
12 U	61.41142	-150.208607
13 U	61.411456	-150.205045
14 U	61.414806	-150.203175
15 U	61.415297	-150.199331
16 U	61.416703	-150.204507
17 U	61.417111	-150.202224
18 U	61.419264	-150.199212
19 U	61.420168	-150.199859
20 U	61.423936	-150.193143
22 U	61.42462	-150.192108
23 U	61.426291	-150.1915
24 U	61.429808	-150.183232
25 U	61.432234	-150.178197

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# D - Developed sites (tent platforms, outhouse, food storage container, picnic table, fire ring)  
# U - Undeveloped site

## Little Susitna River Designated Camp Sites

Little Susitna River  
Public Use Facility (Burma)

Susitna Flats State Game Refuge

Private Land



Mapped produced by  
Dept of Fish & Game  
Dec 2009



1 2 Miles